

## MEETINGS, ETC.

### VICTORIA LEAGUE.

The quarterly meeting of the Victoria League of Tasmania was held in the Mayor's courtroom yesterday. Mrs. Stourton presided, and there were present Mrs. Henry Dabson, Mrs. Cecil Walker, Dean and Mrs. Hay, Mrs. E. M. Johnson, Mrs. J. A. Johnson (hon. sec.), Mrs. Hodgman, Mrs. Bennison, Mrs. L. Clifford, Miss C. Gatehouse, Miss Chapman, and many others.

The hon. secretary (Mrs. Johnson), in her quarterly report, said that Miss Drayton, the acting secretary of the Victoria League in England, had written asking that Tasmanian weekly papers should be forwarded to Miss Cowlishaw, War Contingent Association, 59 Palace-street, London, for soldiers and sailors in hospital in England and at the front, as there was a great shortage of Australian papers. Mrs. Bennison and Miss Dickson undertook to collect papers and money for postage, and it only remained for members to leave "The Tasmanian Mail," Saturday's "Mercury," etc., at the Government Tourist Bureau. The Victoria League in England was increasing its work among the soldiers of the overseas dominions. The first club at Regent-street was opened in June, 1915, in July last a club in Charing Cross-road was opened, a non-residential club was opened at 103 Hatton Garden, E.C., and in December the Dover-street club was opened by Field-Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. Members of the Victoria League in Great Britain and of the Ladies' Empire Club had contributed £5,700, and it was estimated that it would cost £5,000 to carry the clubs on another year. Up to October 31 last 35,000 men had slept in the clubs, and 320,000 meals had been served. Miss Talbot, who had been appointed chief woman inspector under the Board of Agriculture, had resigned her position as secretary, and Miss Drayton, who had been assistant secretary for nearly six years, was appointed as her successor.

The treasurer's statement showed that a credit balance of £35 had been increased to one of £61 3s. 2d.

The report and statement were adopted on the motion of Mrs. Downing, seconded by Mrs. Ogle.

The President said that once more the Governor of Tasmania had been appointed Governor of West Australia, and Sir W. Gibson-Macartney left them next month. Lady Macartney, who was in England, had been looking forward to her return to Tasmania, but would not now do so. The secretary had written offering a reception to his Excellency by way of farewell, but on account of the war and other circumstances that had been declined, though his Excellency was willing to receive addresses at the Mayor's reception the day before his departure.

Mrs. Gant proposed, and Mrs. Propsting seconded, that an address be presented to the Governor and Lady Macartney, and this was agreed to.

Various reports were presented.

### VICTORIA LEAGUE AND RUSSIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER.

Following upon the business of the Victoria League meeting, held in the

Victoria League meeting, held in the Mayor's courtroom yesterday, Dr. M. E. Klatchko, the Russian Trade Commissioner, was introduced to the ladies present, to whom he addressed a few remarks. Dr. Klatchko was accompanied by the Russian Consul (Mr. A. H. Ashbolt), Dean Hay, and Mr. F. H. Piesse. In welcoming the visitor, the President (Mrs. Stourton) assured him of the keen interest with which they all followed the magnificent work of the Russian Army. (Applause.) That was the first time a Russian officer had attended a Hobart meeting in uniform, and they accorded him a most hearty welcome. Dr. Klatchko had met the men of the city the previous day, and now he was meeting the women, and she could assure him, on their behalf, that whatever assistance the men had promised the women were equally willing to give. (Applause.) The Victoria League had raised funds for the Russian prisoners in Germany, and no doubt more would be done for Russia herself. She offered Dr. Klatchko a most cordial welcome.

Dr. Klatchko, in reply, thanked them for the invitation to attend the meeting, and also for what had been done for the

Russian prisoners. Describing his experiences during the war, Dr. Klatchko said that he was a prisoner for 23 days on a German ship, on which there were 400 Germans, one Russian and American, and one Chinaman, but this ship was captured in the Red Sea by a British warship. He landed at Malta, and was attached to the British troops in Egypt, after which General Maxwell attached him to the Australian Imperial Force. (Applause.) He wondered that in such a short time a country like Australia could send such a lot of good and brave soldiers. He had some difficulty in making himself understood at first, but a little Russian, a little English, and a little gesticulation, and the result was "all right." (Applause.) He was glad to be in the land which had sent so many men to the war, and he hoped still more would be sent. A bureau of commerce and information was to be established, which would connect Australia with Russia, and he would be glad to have the assistance of the ladies in that effort, because the literature sent from Russia could be read by them and explained to their husbands in the evenings. (Laughter.) They would receive information with regard to Russian commercial and home life, a newspaper would be established, and a school was to be started in Melbourne for the teaching of the Russian language. In the schools of Russia the German language had been thrown out, and the English language had been substituted—(Applause)—so that in a few years' time travellers would find many people in all parts of Russia who could converse with them in English. Travelling was very cheap in Russia, and one could get from Vladivostock to Petrograd, a journey of 8,000 miles, which took 14 days, for £3. He intended to send to Tasmania an exhibition of Russian goods, and he hoped they would send one of Tasmanian goods to Russia. It was expected that markets for Australian goods would be opened in all parts of Russia. Dr. Klatchko concluded by remarking that friendship was very good, though sometimes it was only

...of... friendship was very good, though sometimes it was only a "scrap of paper," but when it was cemented with commercial ties and bills of exchange it was more reliable. He hoped they would beat the Germans in the field first, and in commerce afterwards. (Applause.)

The Russian National Anthem was played, and vocal selections followed, the gathering being concluded by the singing of the National Anthem and cheers for King George and the Czar.

#### AUSTRALASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

At the quarterly meeting of the Australasian Women's Association, Mrs. O'Shea Petersen (president) occupied the chair. There was a good attendance of members, and a very lively discussion on the increase in doctors' fees took place. It was stated that women's lodges were to be exempt from the increase, but this has not been confirmed. It was proposed by the vice-president and seconded by the secretary, that the association reaffiliate with the National Council of Women.

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